India Nepal border would improve border infrastructure thereby leading to enhanced connectivity, promote cross-border economic integration and strengthening the development of the area. This would also be helpful in effective patrolling, communication and check trans-border crimes and anti-national activities. This will also facilitate better movement of Border Guarding Forces.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

NHRC's visit to Vidarbha regarding prisoner's condition

†1288. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of National Human Rights Commission has visited the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra to inspect the condition of prisoners there;

(b) if so, the information submitted by the team of Commission regarding the condition of prisoners;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cases of keeping more prisoners in jails than their capacity, imprisonment of accused of petty crime for several years and mismanagement in keeping women prisoners and their children have also come to the light during the visit; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Revival of National Integration Council

1289. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to revive the National Integration Council (NIC);

(b) whether the National Integration Council has been re-constituted;

(c) if so, the composition thereof; and

(d) what are the roles envisaged for States in the implementation of national integration programmes conducted by the NIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Integration Council (NIC) was last re-constituted by way of Press Note dated 2.2.2005. The re-constituted NIC, headed by the Prime Minister, has 138 Members comprising Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories which have legislatures, Leaders of National Political Parties and Regional Political Parties, Chairpersons of National Commissions, Media Persons, Eminent Public Figures and Representatives drawn from Business, Labour and Women.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The suggestions made by the NIC relating to the State Governments are referred to them for taking suitable action.

Agitation on Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council

†1290. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the atmosphere created due to the ongoing agitation on Gorkha Hill Council in Darjeeling region of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the decisions taken by Government so far regarding the demands being made in this agitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (b) Government is aware of the agitation launched by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha and some others in the Darjeeling region of West Bengal, demanding removal of Shri Subash Ghisingh from the position of caretaker Administrator of the existing Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC), scrapping the proposal for establishing an Autonomous Council under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for the Darjeeling Hill areas and grant of statehood. According to available information the agitation was withdrawn following an announcement that Shri Subas Ghisingh would be resigning from the post of Administrator, DGHC. Shri Ghisingh has since resigned from this post on 10th March, 2008, and the Commissioner, Jalpaiguri Division has been appointed as Administrator of the DGHC.

(c) Two Bills, namely, the Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2007 and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 were introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30.11.2007 for creation of a new Council *viz.* Gorkha Hill Council Darjeeling under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for the Darjeeling Hill areas in the State of West Bengal. The Bills were referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination. The Committee has presented its report on 28.2.2008. The matter is pending.

Increasing crime rate in the country

1291. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in its latest report has recently revealed that the overall crime rate in the country has alarmingly increased and the percentage of crime against women is very high;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any steps to check the increasing crimes against women and given and directions to the State Governments to control crimes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi